

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended and withdrawn) A method for scalding of slaughtered poultry, prior to plucking thereof, wherein the poultry, are shackled by their feet comprising conveying the poultry by a conveyor through at least one scalding chamber while providing a controlled heated atmosphere of humid, hot air established by blowing in steam at the bottom of one of the at least one scalding chamber, recirculating the air and directly blowing the air onto the slaughtered poultry by nozzles in the scalding chamber; and wherein a scalding period in the one of the at least one chamber is determined by a length and path of the conveyor and by a capacity and/or speed of the conveyor, and conveying the slaughtered poultry with the conveyor through two or more tiered conveyor levels of the one of the at least one scalding chamber past the nozzles.

10. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, comprising two or more scalding chambers with mutually different temperature zones being used.

11. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein a first zone of one of the at least one scalding chambers has a temperature of approximately 85°C.

12. (previously presented and withdrawn) An method according to claim 10, wherein a first zone of one of the at least one of the scalding chambers has a temperature of approximately 85°C.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising at least one scalding chamber, a conveyor for conveying poultry in one of the at least one scalding chambers ~~chamber~~ having a course with parallel lengths including entry and exit sluices, the conveyor extending past second nozzles for blowing humid, hot air directly on the poultry passing the second nozzles on the conveyor, first nozzles for blowing in steam at a bottom of the one of the at least one scalding chamber for producing the humid, hot air which air is recirculated via the second nozzles, and wherein the conveyor in the one of the at least one scalding chamber extends through at least two tiered conveyor levels therein past the second nozzles.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the entry and exit sluices are placed at different levels of the one of the at least one scalding chamber.

15. (previously presented and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

16. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

17. (currently amended and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the one of the at least one scalding chamber comprises a first zone for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 85°C.

18. (currently amended and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the one of the at least one scalding chamber is external to an existing slaughterhouse and the entry and exit sluices are part of a wall of the slaughterhouse.

19. (currently amended and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the one of the at least one scalding chamber is external to an existing slaughterhouse and the entry and exit sluices are part of a wall of the slaughterhouse.

20. (currently amended and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the one of the at least one scalding chamber extends between two levels of a slaughterhouse building.

21. (currently amended and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the one of the at least one scalding chamber extends between two levels of a slaughterhouse building.

22. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

23. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

24. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 11, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding for chamber providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

25. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a third scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

26. (previously presented and withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, comprising scalding chambers each having a temperature zone, with a first scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 60°C, and a second scalding chamber for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 50°C.

27. (previously presented and withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the first scalding chamber comprises a first zone for providing a scalding temperature of approximately 85°C which precedes the first chamber for providing of the scalding temperature of approximately 60°C.